GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5065
ANSWERED ON:27.08.2001
REDUCTION OF CONTENTS OF PHOSPHATE IN DETERGENTS
UTTAMRAO NATHUJI DHIKALE

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the detergents contain higher content of phosphate and are thus harmful for environment and health;

(b) if so, whether orders have been issued to reduce phosphate content in detergents;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) other steps taken by the Union Government in the matter?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) Detergents do contain phpsphate. Excess quantity of phosphate causes eutrophication in the water body and affects the aquatic life.

(b), (c) & (d) Under the Eco-mark scheme, Ministry of Environment and Forests notified the criteria to reduce phosphate contents in detergents in 1992. The criteria also prescribe that the surfactants in detergents shall be at least 97% biodegradable. Detergent manufacturing industries are also required to fulfil various provisions under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 before disposal of the wastewater generated in these industries.